

When the nest was next visited on 25 February we found that it had been pulled 12 cm from its original location and it was empty. Almost certainly it had been raided by a predator. We collected the nest for deposit in the National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi.

Nests and eggs are described for four other members of the genus *Trichastoma* (*T. albipectus*, *T. cleaveri*, *T. fulvescens*, *T. rufipennis*) (Chapin 1953, Mackworth-Praed & Grant 1960, 1973, Butynski 1989). All have nests which are loose, shallow cups of dead, often damp and decaying, leaves. The nest of *T. pyrrhopterum* differs in being a substantial, sturdy structure made primarily of green moss. The size and number of eggs in a clutch (two) are as reported for the other four species. The eggs differ, however, in that they are not primarily white, whitish or pinkish-white, but rather very pale blue-green.

The three breeding records for *T. pyrrhopterum* in East Africa show it breeding in Uganda during February (this record) and May (two records in Brown & Britton 1980). Combining the present record with those in Butynski (1989) we find that, of 26 breeding records for this genus in East Africa, 25 of the 26 are for the seven months from November to May. Although the present record for *T. pyrrhopterum* is for the middle of the region's minor dry season, most records for the genus are during the second half of the two wet seasons, i.e., November–December and April–May.

Acknowledgements

Our field studies are supported by the World Wildlife Fund, USAID and CARE. We thank the Uganda National Research Council, President's Office, Game Department and Forest Department for permission to work in the Impenetrable Forest.

References

- BUTYNSKI, T.M. 1989. First nest record, and other notes, for the Scaly-breasted Illadopsis *Trichastoma albipectus*. *Scopus* 12: 89–92.
- CHAPIN, J.P. 1953. The birds of the Belgian Congo. Part 3. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 75A: 1–821.
- BRITTON, P.L. (ED.) *Birds of East Africa*. Nairobi: EANHS.
- BROWN, L.H. & BRITTON, P.L. 1980. *The breeding seasons of East African birds*. Nairobi: EANHS.
- MACKWORTH-PRAED, C.W. & GRANT, C.H.B. 1960. *African handbook of birds. Series I, vol 2. Birds of eastern and north eastern Africa*. London: Longmans Green & Co.
- MACKWORTH-PRAED, C.W. & GRANT, C.H.B. 1973. *African handbook of birds. Series III, vol 2. Birds of west central and western Africa*. London: Longman.

Dr Thomas M. Butynski and Jan Kalina, Impenetrable Forest Conservation Project, Zoology Department, Makerere University, Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda

Scopus 13: 131–132, October 1989

Received 26 May 1989

First nest record for the Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis*

The Equatorial Akalat *Sheppardia aequatorialis* is a shy, little known bird of the dense undergrowth of mid altitude and montane forests in western Kenya, south-western Uganda, southern Sudan and eastern Zaïre. Chapin (1953), Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1960, 1973) and Brown & Britton (1980) had no breeding records for this species although breeding is recorded in January, April and November from the Imatong Mts by Nikolaus (1987).

On 22 January 1989 we found the nest and eggs of this species at an altitude of 2150 m in the Impenetrable (Bwindi) Forest of south-western Uganda (0°03'S, 29°47'E). The nest, located 30 cm from a little-used footpath, was 0.5 m above the ground in a cleft formed by the small buttress of a 1.1 m diameter-at-breast-height, 40 m tall *Chrysophyllum gorungosanum* tree. It was set back about 12 cm into the cleft and situated on top of a small fern and the debris caught by the fern. About 25 cm above the nest was a second small fern that provided a ceiling. A very dense clump of vegetation, composed of the herb *Sericostachys tomentosa*, lianas, and a small strangler fig *Ficus* sp., sheltered the nest. Considerable additional cover was provided by the canopy of the nest tree and several neighbouring trees and bushes. Thus, the nest was in extremely dense shade, well hidden, and probably completely protected from rain and hail. The site was in a small, relatively dense grove of trees (*Newtonia buchananii*, *Symphonia globulifera* and, particularly, *C. gorungosanum*). This grove was surrounded by a relatively open area covered with a dense ground layer of the herbs *S. tomentosa* and *Mimulopsis solmsii*.

The nest was cup-shaped. The outside was 10 cm in diameter, 3 cm deep and comprised entirely of soft, green moss. The inside was 7 cm in diameter, 2 cm deep and lined only with dry, brown moss stems.

When found, the nest held two eggs, both pale brownish-grey with heavy purplish-brown blotches concentrated towards the large end. The eggs were not measured. When we returned to the nest on 31 January there were two nestlings about 2–3 days old. They had orange-yellow gapes and grey to black down on the feather tracts. On 3 February the nest cup was filled by the nestlings. Their dark grey feathers were about half grown. Orange-buff spots tipped the feathers of the chest and dorsal surface, including the head and tail.

A final visit to the nest was made on 25 February when it was intact and undisturbed, suggesting that the nestlings had fledged successfully. The nest was collected for deposit in the National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi.

Acknowledgements

Our field studies are supported by the World Wildlife Fund, USAID and CARE. We thank the Uganda National Research Council, President's Office, Game Department and Forest Department for permission to work in the Impenetrable Forest.

References

- CHAPIN, J.P. 1953. The birds of the Belgian Congo. Part 3. *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History* 75A: 1–821.
- BROWN, L.H. & BRITTON, P.L. 1980. *The breeding seasons of East African birds*. Nairobi: EANHS.
- MACKWORTH-PRAED, C.W. & GRANT, C.H.B. 1960. *African handbook of birds. Series I, vol 2. Birds of eastern and north eastern Africa*. London: Longmans Green & Co.
- MACKWORTH-PRAED, C.W. & GRANT, C.H.B. 1973. *African handbook of birds. Series III, vol 2. Birds of west central and western Africa*. London: Longman.
- NIKOLAUS, G. 1987. Distribution atlas of Sudan's birds with notes on habitat and status. *Bonner zoologische Monographien* 25: 1–322.

Jan Kalina and Dr Thomas M. Butynski, Impenetrable Forest Conservation Project,
Zoology Department, Makerere University, Box 4930, Kampala, Uganda